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Biographical Sketch

David Blew holds a B.S. in wildlife management and an M.S. in environmental biology from Emporia State University. He has worked for the Idaho Department of Water Resources for five years serving first as the agency's aquatic biologist and is currently the aquifer recharge program coordinator. Prior to his employment with the department, David served for 11 years as the range and riparian specialist for the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission.

Abstract

Implementation of Large-Scale Managed Recharge on Idaho's Eastern Snake River Plain

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Irrigated agriculture on the Eastern Snake River Plain greatly enhanced the underlying aquifer and resulted in increased spring flow tributary to the Snake River. Water table rose as much as 50 feet over parts of the plain. Over the last 40 years spring flows began to decline and ground water levels began falling as irrigation practices began changing. Large-scale managed recharge has been viewed as one potential tool to help restore or maintain this important aquifer. Current plans for managed recharge include the leasing of available water in the rental pool and the use of a 1200 CFS water right held by the Idaho Water Resource Board. Water will be diverted from the Snake River at various locations and recharge will occur at large spreading basins. Managed recharge is viewed as technically feasible but numerous administrative, financial, and environmental issues must first be addressed in order to successfully implement large-scale managed recharge.